IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 29-32. Cancelled

Claim 34. Cancelled

35. (Amended herein) A method for treating atrophic vaginitis in a patient in need of such treatment, said method comprising administering to said patient an amount of about 10 ~~to about 30~~ μg estradiol ~~or a therapeutically equivalent amount of a salt or derivative thereof~~, wherein administration of said amount occurs ~~at least~~ once or twice per week.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the patient is a menopausal or post-menopausal woman.

37. Cancelled

38. Cancelled

39. A method ~~according to claim 35~~ for treating atrophic vaginitis in a patient in need of such treatment, said method comprising administering to said patient ~~wherein~~ about 2 to about 3 μg estradiol ~~or a therapeutically equivalent amount of a salt or derivative thereof is administered~~ daily.

40. (Amended herein) A method according to claim 35, wherein about 5 ~~to about 15 μg~~ estradiol ~~or a therapeutically equivalent amount of a salt or derivative thereof~~ is administered twice weekly.

41-42. Cancelled

43. A method according to claim 35, wherein no progestogen is administered.

44. A method according to claim 35, wherein the route of said administration is vaginally.

45. A method according to claim 35, wherein said at least once-weekly administration occurs over a period of time of more than 2 weeks

46. A method according to claim 45, wherein said period of time is more than 1 month.

47. A method according to claim 46, wherein said period of time is more than 3 months.

48. A method according to claim 35, wherein said administration is performed using a tablet.

49. A method according to claim 48, wherein each tablet comprises, in addition to estradiol or a therapeutically equivalent amount of a salt or derivative thereof, about 53.7 mg hypromellose, about 17.9 mg lactose monohydrate, about 8 mg maize starch, about 0.4 mg magnesium stearate.

50. A method according to claim 48, wherein each tablet is coated with a film consisting of about 0.5 mg hypromellose and about 0.06 mg macrogel 6000 (polyethylene glycol 6000 NF).

51. (Amended herein) A method according to claim 48, wherein there is ~~low or~~ undetectable systemic absorption of said estradiol following said administration.

52. A method according to claim 35, wherein said treatment results in a vaginal pH value below bout 5.5.

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53. (Amended herein) A method according to claim 35, wherein said treatment results in one or more ~~of:~~ of: Relief of vaginal symptoms, improved urogenital atrophy, decreased vaginal pH, and improved cytologic maturation of the vaginal and/or urethral mucosa.